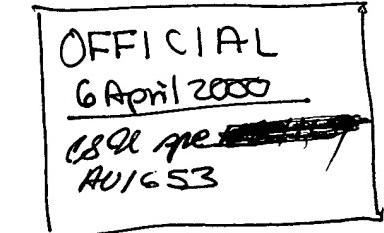


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INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW
PATENT, BIOTECHNOLOGY, COMPUTER,
TRADEMARK & TRADE SECRET LAW

April 6, 2000

FACSIMILE COVER SHEET

PLEASE DELIVER TO: EXAMINER G. Bugaisky @ Art Unit 1653

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FACSIMILE NUMBER: (703) 308-0294

NUMBER OF PAGES (COUNTING COVER SHEET): 6

FROM: Benjamin A. Adler, Ph.D., J.D.

MESSAGE: Please deliver the attached to Examiner Bugaisky. Examiner Bugaisky, please find enclosed the Response to the Final Office Action for USSN 08/915,659 (Our ref: D6020). Thank you.

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4/19 4/7/2000
Amend/G(C.I.E.)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: O'Brien, et al.

ART UNIT: 1653

FILED: August 21, 1997

EXAMINER:

SERIAL NO.: 08/915,659

Bugaisky, G.

FOR: Novel Extracellular
Serine Protease

DOCKET: D 6020

The Assistant Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

BOX AF

Washington, DC 20231

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I certify that this response was transmitted via Facsimile to Examiner G. Bugaisky at (703)308-0294 at the Patent Office on the date below.

April 6, 2000

Date

Benjamin Adler

Benjamin Aaron Adler, Ph.D., J.D.

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116OKW
Enter
LSD
MHP
Dear Sir:

In response to the Final Office Action mailed February 4, 2000, please enter the following amendments and remarks. Reconsideration of the pending claims as amended is requested.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claim 11 as follows:

11. (thrice amended) A method of detecting TADG-14 mRNA expression [of the protein encoded by the DNA of claim 1], comprising the steps of: